



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Extension

AGENCY: U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EIA is proposing revisions and requesting a three-year extension of the *Coal Markets Reporting System* as required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The *Coal Markets Reporting System* (CMRS) consists of 5 surveys including, Form EIA-3 *Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Sector Coal Data*, Form EIA-7A *Annual Survey of Coal Production and Preparation*, Form EIA-8A *Annual Survey of Coal Stocks and Coal Exports*, Form EIA-6 *Emergency Coal Supply Survey (Standby)*, and Form EIA-20 *Emergency Weekly Coal Monitoring Survey for Coal Burning Power Producers (Standby)*. The CMRS collects data on U.S. coal production, quality, consumption, receipts, stocks, and prices. EIA proposes to make changes to instructions to Forms EIA-3, EIA-7A, and EIA-8A and requests an extension to Forms EIA-6 and EIA-20 with no changes. The changes to Forms EIA-3, EIA-7A, and EIA-8A will reduce the burden of this collection while maintaining the utility and integrity of the data.

DATES: EIA must receive all comments on this proposed information collection no later than **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**. If you anticipate any difficulties in submitting your comments by the deadline, contact the person listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice as soon as possible.

ADDRESS: Send your comments to Rosalyn Berry electronically at coal2023@eia.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosalyn Berry, (202) 586-1026

email: coal2023@eia.gov. The forms and instructions are available on EIA's website at <https://www.eia.gov/survey/changes/coal/2023/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This information collection request contains:

- (1) *OMB Control Number:* 1905-0167;
- (2) *Information Collection Request Title:* Coal Markets Reporting System;
- (3) *Type of Request:* Three-year extension with changes;
- (4) *Purpose :* The Coal Markets Reporting System (CMRS) program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on coal production, sales, technology, reserves, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of coal and other energy resources to meet near and longer-term domestic demands and to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.

Form EIA-3 collects quarterly data on the use of coal at U.S. manufacturing plants, coal transformation/processing plants, coke plants, and commercial and institutional users of coal. Form EIA-7A collects coal production operations, characteristics of coalbeds mined, recoverable reserves, production capacity, coal sales and revenue, stocks held at mines, and the disposition of the coal mined. For coal preparation, information collected includes operations, locations, production capacity, disposition, and volume of coal prepared. Form EIA-8A collects data on coal stocks by state location, exported coal by origin state, and export revenue of coal sold during the reporting year.

Form EIA-6 *Emergency Coal Supply Survey* and Form EIA-20 *Emergency Weekly Coal Monitoring Survey for Coal Burning Power Producers* are standby surveys used during periods of coal supply and transportation disruptions. In the event of a supply

or transportation disruption, these two standby surveys activate and operate weekly over a ten-week period. Once activated, Form EIA-6 collects weekly coal production and stocks data from U.S. coal mining companies. Data are aggregated and reported at the state level. During disruptive events, Form EIA-20 collects available coal-fired capacity, generation, consumption, and stocks from coal-fired electric power generators.

The CMRS also collects coal market data. The data elements include production, consumption, receipts, stocks, sales, and prices. Information pertaining to the quality of the coal is also collected, including heat content, ash content, sulfur content and contents of mercury. Aggregates of this collection are used to support analysis on the effects of public policy on the coal industry, economic modeling, forecasting, coal supply and demand studies, and in guiding research and development programs. The data are included in EIA publications, such as the *Monthly Energy Review*, *Quarterly Coal Report*, *Quarterly Coal Distribution Report*, *Annual Coal Report*, and *Annual Coal Distribution Report*.

EIA also uses the data in short-term and long-term forecast models such as the Short-Term Integrated Forecasting System (STIFS) and the National Energy Modeling System (NEMS) Coal Market Module. The forecast data also appear in the *Short-Term Energy Outlook* and the *Annual Energy Outlook* publications.

(4a) *Proposed Changes*: EIA will be requesting a three-year extension of approval for all its coal surveys with the following changes:

Form EIA-3: Quarterly Survey of Industrial, Commercial, & Institutional Coal Users

- Revise the instructions to indicate only active users of coal need report. Currently, respondents are required to report if they've consumed more than 1,000 short tons in the past year. Respondents who switch from coal to gas are still required to file the EIA-3 for up to almost a year after they stop consuming coal. The proposed

change will make it easier for respondents who permanently stop consuming coal to be removed from the survey frame, thereby reducing the reporting burden of this collection.

Form EIA-7A: Annual Survey of Coal Production and Preparation

- Revise the instructions to indicate all coal mining companies that owned a mining operation which produced 50,000 or more short tons of coal during the reporting year must submit the Form EIA-7A, except for anthracite mines. The current threshold for anthracite mines of 10,000 short tons would remain the same. The proposed change in reporting threshold from 25,000 to 50,000 short tons will reduce the reporting burden of this collection while maintaining the utility and integrity of the data.
- Revise the instructions to remove the notes for Part 3 Question 10 advising respondents how to convert longitude and latitude, referencing an external document on EIA's website. These instructions are outdated and unnecessary.

Form EIA-8A: Annual Survey of Coal Stocks and Coal Exports

- Add an instruction to Part 2, Question 1 and Part 3 Question 1 to exclude stocks and exports already reported on the Form EIA-7A. Some respondents file both Forms EIA-7A and EIA-8A, especially companies with parent companies. The proposed change will avoid duplication of data collection, thereby reducing the reporting burden on Form EIA-8A respondents.

(5) Estimated Number of Survey Respondents: 833.

- Form EIA-3 will consist of 290 respondents;
- Form EIA-7A will consist of 480 respondents;
- Form EIA-8A will consist of 44 respondents;
- Form EIA-6 (standby) will consist of 10 respondents;
- Form EIA-20 (standby) will consist of 9 respondents.

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses*: 1,830

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours*: 3,149

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden*: \$262,564 (3,149

burden hours times \$83.38 per hour). EIA estimates that there are no additional costs to respondents associated with the surveys other than the costs associated with the burden hours since the information is maintained during normal course of business.

Comments are invited on whether or not: (a) The proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) EIA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used, is accurate; (c) EIA can improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information it will collect; and (d) EIA can minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, such as automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 772(b) and 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*

Signed in Washington, DC, on January 10th, 2023.

Samson A. Adeshiyan,
Director, Office of Statistical Methods and Research,
U. S. Energy Information Administration.